

Appendix B

Small Universal Waste Generator Cleanup Plan

CAUTION!

Spills and releases of universal waste can be hazardous to your health.

If you do not feel confident with your ability to safely clean up a discharge of universal waste, it is recommended that you hire a professional environmental contractor to conduct the cleanup.

Reporting Requirements:

Report spills/discharges of universal wastes to the Department's spill hotline at:

1-800-452-4664. Exception, you **do not** need to report spills/discharges of the following:

Cathode ray tubes: Incidental spills/releases of ten (10) or fewer CRTs.

Lamps: Incidental spills/releases of ten (10) or fewer lamps.

All spills/discharges from batteries, mercury-containing thermostats, mercury devices, motor vehicle mercury switches and PCB ballasts must be reported immediately.

The following procedures can be used to clean up universal wastes:

- Always wear safety glasses and disposable rubber gloves when cleaning universal waste spills. All items (i.e. brooms, shovels, scoops, tape, gloves, sponges, rags...) used to clean up universal waste spills should be considered contaminated and must be decontaminated or treated as waste.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and face after cleaning up any universal waste spills.

For spills or releases that **do not** require reporting:

- place the broken universal waste item(s) in an appropriate container i.e. sealable plastic bag or sealable plastic or metal container;
- scoop or wipe up as much of the discharged material as possible and place the rags and any other clean-up equipment in the container;
- wipe the spill area thoroughly with a wet sponge. For **mercury lamps** it is recommended that you go over the area with masking tape to pick up small particles of mercury. Place sponge, tape, and/or rags in an appropriate container;
- seal the container(s) and store as universal waste.
- if the spill occurred on a carpet or other permeable surface it may be necessary to remove the flooring to prevent continued exposure to universal waste. This debris should be considered contaminated and treated as hazardous waste.

For spills or releases that **require** reporting:

- Follow the same instructions as above, except the waste must be managed as a hazardous waste instead of as a universal waste.

Small Universal Waste Generator Cleanup Plan (cont)

Special Precautions for Mercury Spills:

- **For All Mercury-Containing Spills:** When a mercury spill occurs, the immediate area should be blocked off to prevent any accidental tracking of the mercury. The heat should be reduced and cooling and ventilation increased in the spill area. There are clean up kits on the market that can be purchased if you are handling any mercury items. You may also put your own kit together.
- **Avoid skin contact with mercury or surfaces that have been contaminated with mercury and make sure to remove all jewelry that may come in contact with the mercury.**
- **Do not use a vacuum to clean up mercury or lead spills.**

The use of a vacuum on a mercury or lead containing universal waste spill will cause mercury and lead dust to be dispersed into the air or will cause the liquid mercury to stick to the metal parts in the vacuum motor. This will allow the mercury and lead to be discharged every time the vacuum is used. This poses a serious health problem and should be avoided. In addition, the vacuum will have to be decontaminated or discarded due to mercury contamination.

Special vacuums are available from environmental contractors that may be used on a mercury spill.

- **For Spills of Liquid Mercury**
Due to the need for specialized equipment and testing of the contaminated area, it is recommended that a professional environmental contractor be hired for all liquid mercury spills

This spill clean up plan is offered as an aid for the smaller universal waste generators. Other generators may also utilize this plan if it is helpful to them.